



## Pilot Study: Watershed Protection Plan Development

A Community-based Water Quality  
Curriculum which Enhances Stakeholder  
Involvement in Watershed Protection Plan  
Initiatives



## Texas Master Watershed Steward

The Texas Master Watershed Steward (MWS) program is implemented through a partnership between Texas Cooperative Extension (TCE) and the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB).

Funding is provided by a CWA 319(h) grant through TSSWCB from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).



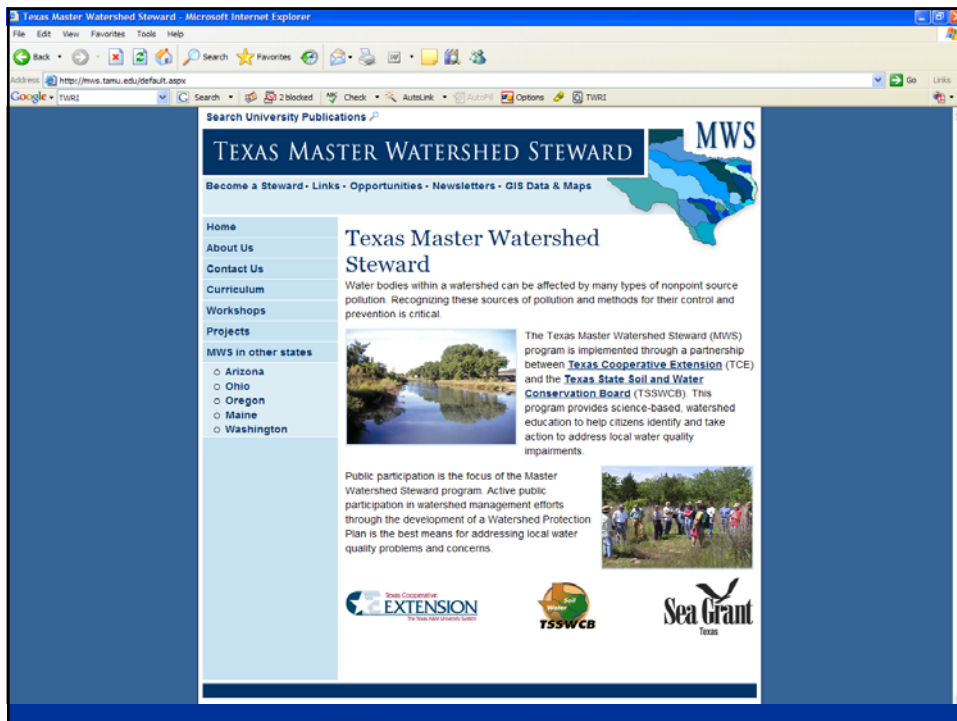
# Introduction

Water bodies within a watershed can be affected by many types of nonpoint source pollution. Recognizing these sources of pollution and methods for their control and prevention is critical.

This program provides science-based, watershed education to help citizens identify and take action to address local water quality impairments.

Website:

<http://masterwatershedsteward.tamu.edu/>



## Public Participation

Public participation is the focus of the Master Watershed Steward program.

Active public participation in watershed management efforts through the development of a Watershed Protection Plan is the best means for addressing local water quality problems and concerns.


## Stakeholder Education

The Master Watershed Steward Program will work to educate stakeholders about


- the nature and function of watersheds,
- potential impairments, and
- strategies for watershed protection including appropriate best management practices to prevent and correct impairments caused by nonpoint source pollution

# Pilot Study

- In collaboration with the TSSWCB Watershed Coordinator and the TSSWCB Regional Watershed Steering Committee we will:
- Select a watershed from the TSSWCB Wharton Regional Service Area with at least one impaired water body designated on the 303(d) list to serve as the target watershed.
- Provide MWS educational trainings to the local stakeholder group to enhance their knowledge of watershed management and water quality issues.
- Facilitate local participation in the watershed plan development process and assist in forming an action committee.
- Assist the Action Committee in identifying priority issues to target from the Watershed Protection Plan.
- Support development of requests/proposals to for funding local efforts to improve water quality.

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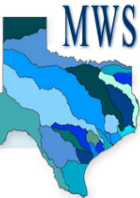
### Projects

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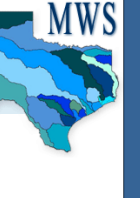
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## Curriculum

The curriculum will be tailored to address the potential impairments of each watershed and include the following topics:

- Principles of Watershed Hydrology
- Primary Nonpoint Source Pollution Types
- Regulatory structure, laws and policy impacting water
- Agricultural BMPs for Protecting Water Quality and Quantity
- Residential BMPs for Protecting Water Quality and Quantity
- Stream and Wetland Evaluation, Clean-Up and Restoration
- Well-head Identification and Protection
- Riparian Area Management for Protecting and Improving Water Quality
- Water Quality Testing and Monitoring
- Small Acreage Water Quality Stewardship
- Working Through a Watershed Action Group and Conflict Resolution

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- [Texas Cooperative Extension – Soil and Crop Sciences](#)
- [Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board](#)
- [Texas Sea Grant](#)
- [Texas A&M University](#)
- [US EPA Water page](#)
- [US EPA Non Point Source Pollution page](#)
- [Southern Region Water Quality Program](#)
- [Texas Water Resources Institute](#)
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- [Texas Commission on Environmental Quality – Clean Rivers Program](#)
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